S6845-1
10/11/88 A

YORK MSA
WILLIAMSPORT MSA
STATE COLLEGE MSA
SHARON MSA
SCRANTON - WILKES-BARRE MSA
READING MSA
PITTSBURGH PMSA
PHILADELPHIA PMSA
LANCASTER MSA
JOHNSTOWN MSA
HARRISBURG-LEBANON-CARLISLE MSA
ERIE MSA
BEAVER COUNTY PMSA
ALTOONA MSA
ALLENTOWN BETHLEHEM MSA
BEDFORD LMA
BRADFORD LMA

PENNSYLVANIA'S LABOR FORCE

.... A Monthly Statistical Analysis

Highlights

- Pennsylvania's labor force showed a renewed surge of strength in August as seasonally adjusted employment reached an all-time high.
- Unemployment, seasonally adjusted, declined to a 14-year low, while the unemployment rate dipped below 5.0 percent for the second time this year to 4.5 percent in August.
- The number of nonagricultural wage and salary jobs expanded in August to replace July as the second highest level of employment ever.
- Hourly earnings of Pennsylvania's manufacturing production workers rose to $10.27 per hour in July, but average weekly hours were down, which resulted in a decrease in average weekly earnings.
- The total number of weeks claimed for unemployment insurance fell to the lowest level for any July since 1970; initial claims are down more than 11,000 from a year ago.

INSIDE

Current Labor Force Situation.....1
Nonagricultural Jobs.....2-3
Hours and Earnings.....4
Unemployment Compensation.....5
County Data.....6
Pennsylvania's Labor Markets.....7
Pennsylvania's Service Delivery Areas.....8

August 1988 DATA ISSUED: September 1988

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Robert P. Casey, Governor

Department of Labor and Industry Bureau of Research and Statistics

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

BUREAU OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Pennsylvania's Labor Force ....A Monthly Statistical Analysis
is published monthly by the Bureau of Research and Statistics.
Focusing on economic information and analysis, the publication is intended for a variety of users from business leaders, government administrators and planners to the general public.

ADDRESS INQUIRIES TO:
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS DIVISION
LABOR AND INDUSTRY BUILDING
SEVENTH AND FORSTER STREETS
HARRISBURG, PA 17121
PHONE: (717) 787-6466

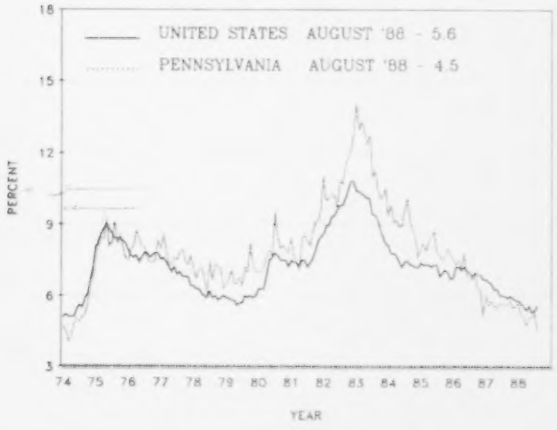
CURRENT LABOR FORCE SITUATION

EMPLOYMENT SETS A NEW RECORD, UNEMPLOYMENT AT A 14-YEAR LOW

Pennsylvania's labor force showed a renewed surge of strength in August as unemployment, seasonally adjusted, declined to a 14-year low and employment jumped to a new all-time high.

Labor force data made available through the Current Population Survey (CPS) of households and released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor showed August seasonally adjusted joblessness in Pennsylvania at 260,000, down 42,000 from July. The sharp decline lowered the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment to 4.5 percent in August from 5.3 percent the previous month. At 4.5 percent, the rate was the lowest since April 1974 when a level of 4.3 percent was achieved. The August rate was well below the year earlier rate of 5.6 percent.

UNITED STATES & PENNSYLVANIA
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)



Pennsylvania's strong economy has drawn into the labor force--and provided jobs--for many workers who would not normally participate during less active economic times. The new high in civilian employment of 5,526,000 in August represented a surprisingly large gain of 93,000 from the month earlier level. The previous high was set in January of this year at 5,497,000. The August gain represented nearly two-thirds of the 151,000 increase over the year ago level.

Employment, not seasonally adjusted, also hit a new all-time high in August at 5,680,000. This figure is up 112,000 from the July level of 5,568,000 which represented the previous all-time high. Unemployment, not adjusted for seasonality was 249,000 in August, down 66,000 from July. The sharp decline cut the unadjusted rate of unemployment to 4.2 percent in August from 5.3 percent one month earlier.

As with the case in July, the large employment gain and drop in unemployment reported by the CPS are not supported by advanced preliminary results of the Bureau of Research and Statistics survey of employers. It is possible that part of the substantial improvement reported for August is an exaggeration by the CPS and should be considered with caution until the release of September data.

TABLE 1
TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA
(All persons in thousands)

				NET CHANGE	
RESIDENT DATA	AUG 1988	JUL 1988	AUG 1987	JUL 1988	AUG 1987
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5,786	5,735	5,691	51	95
Employment	5,526	5,433	5,375	93	151
Unemployment	260	302	316	-42	-56
Rate of Unemployment (%)	4.5	5.3	5.6	-0.8	-1.1
UNADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5,928	5,882	5,837	46	91
Employment	5,680	5,568	5,534	112	146
Unemployment	249	315	303	-66	-54
Rate of Unemployment (%)	4.2	5.3	5.2	-1.1	-1.0

TABLE 2
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

ESTABLISHMENT DATA	AUG 1988 AP/	JUL 1988 P/	JUNE 1988	JUL 1987	NET CHANGE TO JULY 1988 FROM: JUNE 1988	JUL 1987
NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY	5058.7	5055.7	5075.4	4931.2	-19.7	124.5
---MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	1058.9	1051.8	1058.8	1041.7	-7.0	10.1
DURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	605.9	605.3	606.2	592.4	-0.9	12.9
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS		31.5	31.7	30.4	-0.2	1.1
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES		21.2	21.6	21.4	-0.4	-0.2
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS		48.8	49.1	47.8	-0.3	1.0
PRIMARY METAL INDUSTRIES		93.4	92.9	88.8	0.5	4.6
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS		93.2	93.4	91.6	-0.2	1.6
MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL		108.9	108.5	104.9	0.4	4.0
ELECTRIC & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT		92.7	92.9	93.1	-0.2	-0.4
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT		60.6	61.0	59.4	-0.4	1.2
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PRODUCTS		34.2	34.3	34.6	-0.1	-0.4
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES		20.8	20.8	20.4	0.0	0.4
NONDURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	453.0	446.5	452.6	449.3	-6.1	-2.8
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS		91.1	90.5	90.4	0.6	0.7
TOBACCO MANUFACTURES		1.1	1.2	1.0	-0.1	0.1
TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS		29.9	31.0	31.2	-1.1	-1.3
APPAREL AND OTHER TEXTILE PRODS.		77.8	82.4	83.1	-4.6	-5.3
PAPER AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		41.2	41.8	41.7	-0.6	-0.5
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING		81.5	81.8	81.0	-0.3	0.5
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		61.3	61.1	59.6	0.2	1.7
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS		10.7	10.3	11.0	0.4	-0.3
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS		41.9	42.2	40.2	-0.3	1.7
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS		10.0	10.3	10.1	-0.3	-0.1
---NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	3998.5	3998.6	4015.3	3888.3	-16.7	110.3
MINING	29.6	29.9	30.0	30.8	-0.1	-0.9
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	258.0	256.8	246.2	242.9	10.6	13.9
TRANSPORTATION	138.2	137.2	141.5	135.0	-4.3	2.2
PUBLIC UTILITIES	106.0	105.9	105.5	105.8	0.4	0.1
COMMUNICATIONS		49.6	49.5	49.9	0.1	-0.3
ELECTRIC, GAS AND SANITARY		56.3	56.0	55.9	0.3	0.4
WHOLESALE TRADE	269.3	270.9	270.3	267.2	0.6	3.7
RETAIL TRADE	880.0	877.4	879.8	860.4	-2.4	17.0
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES		122.2	122.6	123.2	-0.4	-1.0
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	301.7	301.8	300.1	297.1	1.7	4.7
BANKING		88.8	88.5	90.1	0.3	-1.3
INSURANCE CARRIERS		89.4	88.9	85.4	0.5	4.0
SERVICES	1354.4	1351.9	1345.4	1284.4	6.5	67.5
BUSINESS SERVICES		238.8	236.5	220.2	2.3	18.6
HEALTH SERVICES		435.7	433.8	421.1	1.9	14.6
--HOSPITALS		238.2	237.8	232.2	0.4	6.0
LEGAL SERVICES		39.0	38.7	37.2	0.3	1.8
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES		131.3	138.1	123.2	-6.8	8.1
SOCIAL SERVICES		87.1	87.1	83.6	0.0	3.5
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES		65.7	64.5	60.5	1.2	5.2
GOVERNMENT	661.3	666.8	696.5	664.7	-29.7	2.1
FEDERAL		144.0	144.2	142.3	-0.2	1.7
STATE		134.5	139.5	138.2	-5.0	-3.7
LOCAL		388.3	412.8	384.2	-24.5	4.1
---PERSONS IN LABOR-MGMT. DISPUTES	1.3	5.3	1.3	1.2	4.0	4.1

AP/ = Advanced preliminary, based on early survey returns.
P/ = Preliminary data.

ADVANCED PRELIMINARY DATA STRONG IN AUGUST

Pennsylvania's total nonagricultural establishment employment grew by 3,000 over-the-month to 5,058,700, according to advanced preliminary figures. This replaced the July total of 5,055,700 as the second highest level ever. The current record was set in June of this year. Employment increased by 120,200 over last year, making this the highest total employment ever recorded in the month of August.

Manufacturing rose by 7,100 over-the-month, a somewhat higher increase than would be seasonally expected, to 1,058,900. This was primarily due to an expansion in the nondurable goods industries.

Nonmanufacturing employment declined by 100, a much lower reduction than would be anticipated in August. Contract construction (258,000) and services and miscellaneous (1,354,400) reached all time highs this month.

Compared to one year ago, employment advanced in all major industries except nondurable goods and mining. Manufacturing gained 12,200 jobs and nonmanufacturing expanded by 108,400 with the majority of the rise in nonmanufacturing coming from an increase of 70,300 jobs in services.

LESS THAN NORMAL SEASONAL DECLINE IN JULY REFLECTS A STRONG ECONOMY

Nonagricultural establishment employment in July was 5,055,700, the second highest level ever. The record of 5,075,400 was set in June of this year, with May the third highest. This represents a less than normal seasonal decline of 19,700 jobs since June, indicating continued economic strength for the Commonwealth. This year's mid-summer decline was softened due to fewer plant vacation shutdowns. As a result, employment for the month was at the highest July figure ever.

Most jobs lost during July were in the nonmanufacturing sector, primarily in educational services (down 6,800) and local government (down 24,500), both due to summer school closings.

Despite the overall loss of 16,700 jobs in nonmanufacturing, the July total of 3,998,600 was the second highest on record. Several sectors experienced significant over-the-month expansion. Setting new records in July were contract construction (256,800), wholesale trade (270,900), finance, insurance and real estate (301,800), and services (1,351,900).

Manufacturing employment, at 1,051,800 in July, declined a modest 7,000 from June. This represented only half the loss normally experienced during July. Most of the decline was in textile mill products and apparel, and other textile products within the nondurable goods industries.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

TABLE 3
PENNSYLVANIA HOURS AND EARNINGS
OF MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING PRODUCTION WORKERS
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

INDUSTRY TITLE	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	JULY 1988 P/	JUNE 1988	JULY 1987	JULY 1988 P/	JUNE 1988	JULY 1987	JULY 1988 P/	JUNE 1988	JULY 1987
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	419.02	421.48	405.32	40.8	41.2	40.9	10.27	10.23	9.91
DURABLE GOODS	453.60	460.57	440.96	41.5	42.1	41.8	10.93	10.94	10.60
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS	354.24	360.64	358.69	41.0	41.5	42.6	8.64	8.69	8.42
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	363.37	358.75	353.83	40.6	40.4	41.0	8.95	8.88	8.63
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODS.	458.17	456.68	438.65	42.9	42.8	42.3	10.68	10.67	10.37
PRIMARY METALS	537.20	549.50	522.88	42.1	43.2	42.1	12.76	12.72	12.42
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	445.42	448.59	427.04	42.1	42.4	41.3	10.58	10.58	10.34
NONELECTRICAL MACHINERY	471.37	478.76	453.03	42.2	42.9	42.3	11.17	11.16	10.71
ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONIC MACH.	402.38	411.67	401.17	39.8	40.8	40.4	10.11	10.09	9.93
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	515.42	536.45	489.57	41.6	42.7	40.9	12.39	12.61	11.97
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PROD.	428.26	418.61	434.73	41.7	41.0	43.0	10.27	10.21	10.11
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES	371.42	392.83	399.75	37.9	39.5	41.0	9.80	9.94	9.75
NONDURABLE GOODS	372.67	369.08	359.50	39.9	39.9	39.9	9.34	9.25	9.01
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS	414.92	411.64	393.09	41.0	41.0	40.4	10.12	10.04	9.73
TOBACCO PRODUCTS	247.26	247.73	254.59	39.0	39.7	40.8	6.34	6.24	6.24
TEXTILE PRODUCTS	278.74	289.02	267.80	38.5	39.7	38.7	7.24	7.28	6.92
APPAREL AND RELATED PRODUCTS	219.45	222.22	213.12	35.8	35.9	36.0	6.13	6.19	5.92
PAPER PRODUCTS	486.59	474.06	466.91	44.6	44.1	43.8	10.91	10.75	10.66
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING	428.58	427.68	432.00	39.5	39.6	40.0	10.85	10.80	10.80
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	525.10	522.70	499.36	42.9	42.6	42.9	12.24	12.27	11.64
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS	569.36	591.41	582.03	42.8	43.2	44.6	13.77	13.69	13.05
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS	381.89	379.13	378.06	41.6	41.8	42.1	9.18	9.07	8.98
LEATHER PRODUCTS	226.07	234.46	231.08	37.0	38.0	39.1	6.11	6.17	5.91
NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES									
ANTHRACITE COAL MINING	443.81	427.56	368.20	36.2	35.6	32.7	12.26	12.01	11.26
BIT. COAL & LIGNITE MINING	639.84	677.95	625.95	41.2	42.8	41.1	15.53	15.84	15.23
COMMUNICATIONS	544.58	532.13	539.98	41.1	40.1	40.6	13.25	13.27	13.30
ELECTRIC, GAS, & SANITARY	645.22	641.98	630.20	42.9	42.8	42.9	15.04	15.07	14.69
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES	181.10	179.71	182.99	28.7	28.3	29.9	6.31	6.35	6.12

P/ Preliminary data.

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS AND EARNINGS DROP IN JULY

Hourly earnings of Pennsylvania's manufacturing production workers rose to $10.27 per hour in July. The increase was due to an over-the-month rise of nine cents in the hourly earnings of nondurable goods workers. Among the largest gainers within nondurable goods were: paper products workers with an increase of 16 cents, rubber and plastics products workers with a gain of 11 cents and tobacco products workers with a ten cents increase. Durable goods workers saw their average hourly earnings reduced by one cent from last month, but were up 33 cents over July a year ago.

Although hourly earnings rose, average weekly hours were down from both last month and July of 1987. This resulted in a drop in the average weekly earnings from $421.48 in June to $419.02 in July.

The decrease in average weekly hours occurred in durable goods, both for the month and a year ago. Hours for nondurable goods workers maintained both month-ago and year-ago levels.

Within nonmanufacturing industries only workers in anthracite coal mining saw an increase in their hourly earnings over last month, while hourly earnings in all other nonmanufacturing industries declined. Average hourly earnings in communications were down both for the month and compared to last year.

TABLE 4
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION REGULAR PROGRAM
(Not seasonally adjusted)

	JULY 1988	JUNE 1988	JULY 1987	NET CHANGE FROM JUNE 88	NET CHANGE FROM JULY 87
CLAIMS ACTIVITY					
Initial Claims	82,617	73,976	94,055	8,641	-11,438
Weeks Claimed	448,849	470,361	524,226	-21,512	-75,377
---Average Weekly Volume	106,869	106,900	113,962	-31	-7,093
Insured Unemployed Rate	2.3%	2.3%	2.5%	-0.0	-0.2
PAYMENT ACTIVITY					
First Payments	32,192	24,522	37,461	7,670	-5,269
Final Payments	7,837	6,769	10,456	1,068	-2,619
Weeks Paid	394,674	436,853	502,318	-42,179	-107,644
Net Benefit Amount	$57,547,049	$64,833,112	$71,468,026	-$7,286,063	-$13,920,977
Avg. Check Amount	$145.81	$148.41	$142.28	-$2.60	$3.53

WEEKS CLAIMED TOTAL FALLS TO LOWEST LEVEL OF YEAR

Weeks claimed in July fell to a 1988 low of 448,849 which is the lowest total reported for July since 1970. The number of weeks claimed has fallen for five successive months. July claims were down 14.4 percent from the year ago volume of 524,226. The insured unemployment rate remained unchanged at 2.3 percent. The initial claims total for July, as a result of increases in each of the last two months, moved 13,009 above the May total. However, the increase over this period reflects a normal seasonal pattern. From a longer term perspective, the July initial claims total is more than 11,000 below the year ago.

Decreases from a month ago in both weeks paid and the average check amount dropped net benefits from June by $7.3 million to $57.5 million. July's figures for weeks paid, average check and net benefit amount represent the lowest levels for 1988. July's drop in weeks paid from a year ago absorbed an increase of $3.53 in the average check amount to keep the net benefit amount considerably below a year ago. July is the sixth month to date in 1988 realizing lower monthly benefit costs compared to 1987.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WEEKS CLAIMED are requests for benefits filed by claimants which certify to the fact the claimants experienced total, partial, or part-total unemployment for given weeks (includes waiting weeks claimed and requests subsequently denied).

WEEKS PAID are weeks claimed which were paid to eligible claimants upon certification that unemployment compensation qualifying unemployment was experienced during given weeks.

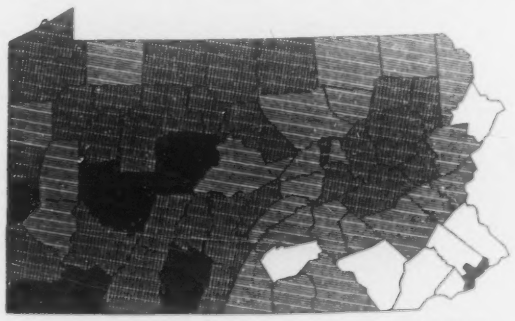
UNEMPLOYMENT ..... A GEOGRAPHIC VIEW

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES VARY AMONG COUNTIES

Unemployment within Pennsylvania's counties in July varied from 3.3 percent to 11.5 percent with Chester and Greene Counties continuing to be ranked first and last, respectively.

Forty-five counties had a drop in their unemployment rates, twenty counties had higher unemployment rates and two counties remained the same. Eight counties had a decline in rates of 1.0 percent or more: Forest, Greene, Juniata, Pike, Monroe, Union, Washington, and Wayne. Six counties had increases in their unemployment rates of 1.0 percent or more: Cameron, Clearfield, Columbia, Lackawanna, Potter, and Schuylkill Counties.

The top twenty ranked counties, with unemployment rates of 4.8 percent or below, were all in the eastern part of the state. Counties with unemployment rates of 8.0 percent and above, the seven lowest ranking counties, were all in the West. Greene, Clearfield, and Indiana counties had double digit rates.



JULY RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

- 2.0 to 3.9
- 4.0 to 5.9
- 6.0 to 7.9
- 8.0 to 11.5

TABLE 5
PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES RANKED BY RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
(Not seasonally adjusted, preliminary)
JULY - 1988

COUNTY	RANK	RATE (%)	VOLUME
Chester	1	3.3	6300
Montgomery	1	3.3	13100
Bucks	3	3.5	10500
Cumberland	3	3.5	3800
Delaware	5	3.6	11100
Pike	5	3.6	500
Lancaster	7	3.9	8800
Union	8	4.1	700
Wayne	8	4.1	900
Lebanon	10	4.2	2700
Monroe	11	4.3	1900
Montour	11	4.3	300
Adams	13	4.4	1700
Berks	13	4.4	7900
Franklin	13	4.4	2400
Lehigh	13	4.4	6500
York	13	4.4	7900
Snyder	18	4.5	800
Dauphin	19	4.6	6300
Perry	20	4.8	1000
Warren	21	4.9	1100
Lycoming	22	5.0	3100
Allegheny	23	5.2	33600
Bradford	23	5.2	1600
Northampton	23	5.2	6000
Sullivan	23	5.2	200
Mercer	27	5.3	2800
Susquehanna	28	5.6	1100
Centre	29	5.7	3500
Juniata	30	5.8	600
Butler	31	5.9	4200
Fulton	32	6.0	300
Philadelphia	32	6.0	45900
Lawrence	34	6.2	2800
Columbia	35	6.3	2000
Elk	35	6.3	1100
Erie	35	6.3	8300
Tioga	35	6.3	1200
McKean	39	6.5	1400
Huntingdon	40	6.8	1200
Lackawanna	40	6.8	7600
Washington	40	6.8	6300
Crawford	43	6.9	2700
Mifflin	43	6.9	1500
Venango	43	6.9	1800
Westmoreland	43	6.9	12000
Blair	47	7.1	4400
Cameron	47	7.1	200
Cambria	49	7.3	4700
Clarion	49	7.3	1200
Clinton	51	7.4	1100
Northumberland	51	7.4	3600
Jefferson	53	7.5	1500
Carbon	54	7.6	1900
Forest	55	7.7	100
Potter	55	7.7	600
Wyoming	55	7.7	1000
Schuylkill	58	7.8	5800
Luzerne	59	7.9	12800
Somerset	59	7.9	2600
Bedford	61	8.0	1800
Armstrong	62	8.2	2300
Beaver	63	9.0	5800
Fayette	63	9.0	5300
Clearfield	65	10.0	3500
Indiana	65	10.0	3500
Greene	67	11.5	1600

PENNSYLVANIA'S LABOR MARKET AREAS

TABLE 6
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT VOLUME AND RATE
BY MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA IN PENNSYLVANIA
(Seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

AREA	JULY 1988 * UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	JULY 1988 * UNEMPLOYMENT RATE%	JUNE 1988 UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	JUNE 1988 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE%	JULY 1987 UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	JULY 1987 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE%
UNITED STATES	6625	5.4	6455	5.3	7251	6.0
PENNSYLVANIA	302	5.3	292	5.1	322	5.7
LABOR MARKET AREA						
ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA	14.5	4.5	14.8	4.6	16.7	5.3
ALTOONA	4.5	7.5	4.5	7.5	4.0	6.8
BEAVER COUNTY PMSA	5.9	9.3	5.7	9.0	6.7	10.8
ERIE MSA	8.1	6.3	7.9	6.2	9.1	7.2
HARRISBURG-LEB-CARLISLE MSA	13.2	4.1	11.7	3.7	13.7	4.4
JOHNSTOWN MSA	7.1	7.6	7.0	7.4	7.6	8.2
LANCASTER MSA	8.2	3.8	7.6	3.5	7.9	3.7
PHILADELPHIA PMSA	100.3	4.2	97.3	4.0	107.4	4.5
PITTSBURGH PMSA	55.4	5.8	55.3	5.8	65.1	6.9
READING MSA	7.2	4.1	7.1	4.1	7.8	4.6
SCRANTON--WILKES-BARRE MSA	23.2	6.6	22.1	6.3	22.3	6.5
SHARON MSA	2.8	5.6	2.6	5.1	3.5	7.3
STATE COLLEGE MSA	3.6	5.8	3.2	5.3	3.4	5.7
WILLIAMSPORT MSA	3.2	5.2	3.0	5.0	3.2	5.5
YORK MSA	9.4	4.3	8.2	3.8	9.2	4.4

* Preliminary data.

MOST LABOR MARKET AREAS IMPROVE OVER THE YEAR

Although the rate of unemployment (seasonally adjusted) increased in the majority of Pennsylvania's fifteen major Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) over the month, the unemployment rates of eleven of these areas are down from one year ago. Among the most improved from last July are: Sharon MSA with a drop of 1.7 percent to 5.6 percent; Beaver County PMSA, minus 1.5 percent to a 9.3 percent rate; and Pittsburgh PMSA, which decreased by 1.1 percent over the year to a present level of 5.8 percent unemployment. Of the remaining four MSA's, three recorded an over-the-year increase of only 0.1 percent, while the Altoona MSA had a rise of 0.7 percent, to an unemployment rate of 7.5 percent.

SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS

The unemployment rates for the Service Delivery Areas(SDA's) ranged from 3.3 percent for SDA's19 (Montgomery County) and 21(Chester County) to 9.0 percent for SDA 5 (Beaver County). SDA 8 (Greene and Washington Counties) showed the most improvement over-the-month with a decrease of 1.2 percentage points to a current rate of 7.4 percent unemployment (seeTable 7).

TABLE 7
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT SITUATION
JULY 1988 --- PRELIMINARY
(DATA NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, VOLUME IN THOUSANDS)

SDA NO.	COUNTIES	LABOR FORCE	EMP.	UNEMP.	RATE (%)
01	(Erie)	131.1	122.8	8.3	6.3
02	(Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren)	105.3	98.4	6.9	6.6
03	(City of Pittsburgh)	175.1	164.9	10.2	5.8
04	(Allegheny County minus City of Pittsburgh)	476.9	453.3	23.6	5.0
05	(Beaver)	64.8	59.0	5.8	9.0
06	(Armstrong, Butler, Indiana)	134.9	124.9	10.0	7.4
07	(Fayette, Westmoreland)	232.2	214.9	17.3	7.5
08	(Greene, Washington)	107.1	99.2	7.9	7.4
09	(Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter)	104.3	96.1	8.3	7.9
10	(Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset)	204.6	189.6	15.0	7.3
11	(Centre, Clinton, Lycoming, Mifflin)	159.6	150.4	9.2	5.8
12	(Columbia, Juniata, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union)	133.1	125.0	8.0	6.0
13	(Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming)	84.6	79.6	5.0	5.9
14	(Lackawanna)	111.8	104.1	7.6	6.8
15	(Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne)	104.1	98.9	5.2	5.0
16	(Luzerne, Schuylkill)	238.2	219.6	18.7	7.8
17	(Philadelphia)	759.8	713.8	45.9	6.0
18	(Bucks)	297.0	286.5	10.5	3.5
19	(Montgomery)	393.8	380.7	13.1	3.3
20	(Delaware)	304.0	293.0	11.1	3.6
21	(Chester)	192.7	186.4	6.3	3.3
22	(Lehigh, Northampton)	264.6	252.0	12.6	4.8
23	(Berks)	178.0	170.1	7.9	4.4
24	(Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry)	328.4	314.8	13.7	4.2
25	(Lancaster)	224.6	215.8	8.8	3.9
26	(York)	180.9	173.0	7.9	4.4
27	(Adams, Franklin)	93.8	89.7	4.1	4.4
28	(Lawrence, Mercer)	96.7	91.1	5.6	5.7
	PENNSYLVANIA - TOTAL	5882.0	5567.0	315.0	5.3

A Service Delivery Area is a geographical planning region defined by the Jobs Training Partnership Act (JTPA)

TECHNICAL NOTES

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Civilian Labor Force - Estimated number of persons 16 years of age and over, employed or unemployed during week including 12th of month, distributed by place of residence.

Total Employed - Includes nonagricultural wage and salary workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agricultural workers, and persons involved in labor disputes. Employment distributed by place of residence.

Total Unemployed - Estimated number of persons, by place of residence, who did not work during reference week and were looking for work, whether or not eligible for unemployment compensation. Includes those who did not work and were waiting to be called back to an old job or to report to a new job.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Collection - Nonagricultural wage and salary employment as well as hours and earnings estimates based on monthly reports from sample of employers. Under cooperative arrangement with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Research & Statistics of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, mails, edits, and processes reports, which are subsequently incorporated in national data.

Industrial Classification - Employer establishments classified by industry on basis of their principal product or service. The Standard Industrial Classification Manual (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., 1972, amended 1977) used for classification.

Nonagricultural Employment - A count of jobs by place of work. Includes persons on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation. Excluded are persons laid off, on strike, or on unpaid vacation during entire reporting period. Proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers also excluded. Government employment covers only civilian employes. Full-time teachers considered employed during the summer vacation period, whether or not paid in those months.

Benchmark Data - Employment estimates compared annually with complete count of employment, by industry. Where revisions necessary, monthly estimates adjusted to new benchmark. Following revisions to new benchmark, industry data projected forward to current month by use of sample trends. Basic source of benchmark information is tabulations of employment data, by industry and area, compiled from contribution reports of employers covered under Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law.

Hours and Earnings

Method of Computing Averages - Average hours computed by dividing total production worker hours worked during one week (the seven-day period which includes 12th of month) by number of production workers for week. Average hourly earnings computed by dividing total production worker payroll for one week by total production worker hours for week. Average weekly earnings derived by multiplying average hourly earnings by average weekly hours.

Definitions - Definitions of production or similar workers, payroll, and hours - from which average hours and earnings data are derived - follow:

Production Workers - Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers (including group leaders and trainees) engaged in fabricating, processing, assembling, inspection, receiving, storage, handling, packing, warehousing, shipping, maintenance, repair, janitorial and guard services, product development, auxiliary production for plant's own use (such as power plant), and record keeping and other services closely associated with production operations.

Payroll - Represents payroll for full- and part-time production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers who received pay for any part of pay periods which include 12th of month. Payroll is reported before deductions for Social Security, group insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues; also includes pay for overtime, holidays, vacations, and sick leave paid directly by the firm.

Hours - Represents hours worked or paid, during pay periods which include 12th of month, for production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers. Hours include time paid for holidays and vacations, and for sick leave when pay received directly from firm.

Unemployment Compensation

Initial Claims - Notices of unemployment filed to request a determination of entitlement to compensation in a new benefit year (period of eligibility) following a period of employment or to begin a second or subsequent period of eligibility within the benefit year following interim employment within the benefit year.

Weeks Claimed - Requests for benefits filed by claimants which certify to the fact the claimants experienced total, partial, or part-total unemployment for given weeks.

Average Weekly Claims - Total number of weeks claimed in a month divided by the number of weeks in the month.

Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) - Ratio of the average weekly number of persons claiming unemployment compensation benefits within the given month to average annual covered employment. Calculated by dividing the month's average weekly continued weeks claimed by the latest 12 month average covered employment for which data is available.

First Payment - First benefit check a claimant receives for a week of unemployment in a benefit year.

Weeks Paid - Weeks claimed which were paid to eligible claimants upon certification that unemployment compensation qualifying unemployment was experienced during given weeks.

Net Benefit Amount - Amount of regular unemployment compensation benefits paid to claimants, after adjusting for returned and redeposited benefit checks.